

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CTME-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4984

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 03157

PASS US CUSTOMS FOR COMMISSIONER FROM USDEL GIGUERE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CCC, OCON

SUBJECT: CCC: 14TH SESSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

COMMITTEE, BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 6-17, 1978

1. THIS SESSION WAS PRINCIPALLY DEVOTED TO TECHNICAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. ONLY GENERAL QUESTION PRESENTED CONCERNED DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED COMMODITY DESCRIPTORS FOR MERCHANDISE. COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE DONE AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT THAT INDUSTRY SECTORS SEEKING SUCH DETAIL SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO DEVELOP THEM IN COOPERATION WITH THE TECHNICAL TEAM OF CCC. COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP A CORE OF DESCRIPTORS WHICH WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF THE SYSTEM. COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT THE TECHNICAL TEAM WOULD PRODUCE DOCUMENTS CONTAINING CORE DESCRIPTORS REFLECTING THE REALIGNMENT OF THE SYSTEM AS AGREED TO DATE. DECISIONS IN THIS MATTER ARE IN ACCORD WITH USG POSITIONS.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO TECHNICAL DECISIONS CONCERNING HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE TAKEN BY THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE AT ITS 38TH SESSION, NO DEFINITE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON QUESTIONS WHERE THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE. PRINCIPAL AMONG THESE WERE QUESTIONS DEALING WITH THE TEXT OF A HEADING FOR RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND A QUESTION DEALING WITH GLASS FIBERS. THESE

WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR FUTURE SESSIONS. BOTH QUESTIONS ARE OF INTEREST TO THE USG.

3. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS DEALING WITH COPPER AND COPPER ALLOYS WERE RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH USG POSITIONS. QUESTIONS DEALING WITH WROUGHT PRODUCTS OF COPPER WERE POSTPONED. OUTCOME SATISFACTORY TO USDEL BECAUSE THESE QUESTIONS BEAR ON OTHER INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY ALUMINUM AND IRON AND STEEL.

4. OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WERE HANDLED ABOUT AS EXPECTED. THESE DEALT WITH LIVE ANIMALS, MEAT, ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FATS, PREPARATIONS OF MEAT AND FISH, AND ORGANIC SURFACE ACTIVE AGENTS.

5. USDEL CONTINUES TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN GETTING US PROPOSALS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE, DUE PRIMARILY TO BLOCK VOTING BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. USDEL WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS SITUATION MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE PRESENT SESSION THAN IN PRIOR SESSIONS, BUT IT REMAINS A PROBLEM. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF SUBDIVISIONS OF COMMODITIES THAT ARE NOT THE MOST DESIRABLE.

6. PROGRESS AT PRESENT SESSION RAISES DOUBTS THAT COMMITTEE CAN COMPLETE SYSTEM WITHIN 1981 DEADLINE SET BY THE COUNCIL. CHAMBERS
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